

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Replace the Abstract with the Abstract filed herewith on a separate sheet of paper.

Please replace the paragraph at page 6, line 29, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The acid solution is generally mixed with the solution or the suspension of N-carboxyanhydrides after having extracted the silica therefrom. The solvent medium can optionally be changed before the treatment. On completion of the treatment, aqueous phase is removed, for example by separating by settling or by azeotropic distillation with the solvent.--